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C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 000817

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SCE:KABUMOTO AND S/WCI:PROSPER

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KAWC](#) [HR](#)

SUBJECT: FM ZUZUL SEEKS UNDERSTANDING ON GOTOVINA

REF: A. SECRETARY 6 OF 29 APRIL 04

[1](#)B. USNATO 429

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR RALPH FRANK, REASON: 1.5 (B) & (D)

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (C) FOREIGN MINISTER MIOMIR ZUZUL SOUGHT A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FRANK TO EXPRESS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE U.S. POSITION CONDITIONING SUPPORT FOR CROATIA'S NATO ENTRY ON THE ARREST OF ICTY FUGITIVE ANTE GOTOVINA (REFTELS). AMBASSADOR FRANK RESPONDED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE AS THE U.S. HAS LONG STATED THAT FULL COOPERATION WITH THE ICTY MEANS THAT GOTOVINA IS ARRESTED AND IN THE HAGUE. THE AMBASSADOR CAUTIONED THAT CROATIA CANNOT ABSOLVE ITSELF OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND GOTOVINA BY ATTEMPTING TO SHOW THAT GOTOVINA IS NOT IN CROATIA. FM ZUZUL PLANS A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE U.S. MAY 16-18 AND ASKED IF HE SHOULD TRY TO SEE THE SECRETARY ONCE AGAIN. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT WHILE FM ZUZUL COULD USEFULLY MEET WITH AMBASSADOR PROSPER, ZUZUL SHOULD NOT WEAR OUT THE WELCOME MAT IN WASHINGTON BY SEEKING ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

SHOCKED, JUST SHOCKED

[1](#)2. (C) ON MAY 4, AMBASSADOR FRANK MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MIOMIR ZUZUL TO REINFORCE THE U.S. POSITION ON ICTY FUGITIVE ANTE GOTOVINA. MINISTER ZUZUL EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE AT THE U.S. POSITION THAT CROATIA'S ENTRY INTO NATO WAS CONDITIONED ON THE ARREST AND DELIVERY TO THE HAGUE OF ICTY FUGITIVE ANTE GOTOVINA. ZUZUL SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN UNHELPFUL APRIL 30 NATO MAP REVIEW IN BRUSSELS (REF B), PARTICULARLY AFTER THE POSITIVE EU AVIS, WHICH HE THOUGHT HAD ALSO REFLECTED U.S. VIEWS.

[1](#)3. (C) AMBASSADOR FRANK RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. POSITION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE AS IT WAS NOT NEW. THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT FULL COOPERATION WITH THE ICTY MEANT THAT GOTOVINA WAS ARRESTED AND DELIVERED TO THE HAGUE. ON APRIL 15, ZUZUL HAD BEEN TOLD DIRECTLY BY AMBASSADOR PROSPER THAT THE U.S. DID NOT AGREE WITH ICTY CHIEF PROSECUTOR DEL PONTE'S ASSESSMENT THAT CROATIA WAS FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH ICTY. ZUZUL HAD HEARD THE SAME MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TWICE) DURING THEIR PHONE CALL APRIL 16 AND IN PERSON IN BERLIN ON APRIL 28 (REF A).

HELP US FIND GOTOVINA

[1](#)4. (C) ZUZUL SAID HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION, AS THE GOC WAS CONVINCED THAT GOTOVINA WAS NOT IN CROATIA. THE GOC WAS NOT AFRAID OF THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ARRESTING GOTOVINA. HIS ARREST WOULD PROVIDE RELIEF FROM THE CURRENT DEPRESSING POSITION THE GOC WAS IN. ZUZUL THEN ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN FINDING GOTOVINA.

[1](#)5. (C) AMBASSADOR FRANK REMINDED ZUZUL THAT IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE GOC TO FIND GOTOVINA. IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO ASSERT THAT GOTOVINA WAS NOT IN CROATIA. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS CONCERNED THAT SOME IN CROATIA BELIEVED THEY COULD "GAME" THE ISSUE BY WAITING OUT THE ICTY'S COMPLETION STRATEGY. CROATIA'S PAST BEHAVIOR -- ON BOBETKO AND GOTOVINA) HAD PUT THE BURDEN ON CROATIA TO MATCH ITS WORDS WITH ACTIONS. THE U.S. HAD GONE VERY FAR IN SUPPORTING CROATIA'S NATO ASPIRATIONS. HOWEVER, GOTOVINA IS AND WOULD REMAIN A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO FURTHER U.S. SUPPORT FOR CROATIA'S NATO CANDIDACY. THE GOC SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN THE SEARCH, AS NO OTHER COUNTRY COULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE CONTACTS AND LEADS THAT COULD LEAD TO GOTOVINA'S CAPTURE.

ZUZUL'S PRIVATE TRIP TO U.S.

[1](#)6. (C) FM ZUZUL SAID HE WAS PLANNING A PRIVATE VISIT TO BOSTON AND NEW YORK FROM MAY 13 AND WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON MAY 16-18 TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL ISSUES. ZUZUL ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD TRY TO SEE THE SECRETARY AGAIN. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT, HAVING JUST SEEN THE SECRETARY, ZUZUL SHOULD NOT SEEK ANOTHER MEETING TO GO OVER THE SAME GROUND. AMBASSADOR

FRANK SUGGESTED THAT ZUZUL COULD USEFULLY MEET WITH
AMBASSADOR PROSPER, IN ADVANCE OF PROSPER'S POSSIBLE NEXT
VISIT TO CROATIA, IF ZUZUL HAD SOMETHING NEW TO SAY ON
GOTOVINA.

FRANK

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